

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, line 8 as follows:

The labeling system of allergenic specific ingredients on products has been implemented in Japan since April 2002. Regarding foods, the labeling of five items, wheat, buckwheat, peanuts, milk, and eggs, as specific ingredients, has thus been made mandatory according to conditions below [the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website: "Labeling of Foods Containing Allergens" (<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/0103/tp0329-2b.html>) and "Journal of the Food Hygienes Society of Japan (SHOKUHIN EISEIGAKU ZASSHI in Japanese) (Japan), The Food Hygienes Society of Japan, 2002, vol. 43, No. 4, p. j-269-j-271"]. Following this, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has provided notification of a test for the specific ingredients by a quantitative ELISA method for primary screening that utilizes a polyclonal antibody and a qualitative PCR method (wheat, buckwheat, and peanuts) and western blotting (milk and eggs) for confirmatory testing. In the ELISA method for primary screening, a sample having a quantitative value of 10 ppm or more (in terms of the total amount of proteins from a specific ingredient/the final weight of a product) determined with any of two ELISA kits is assessed as being positive and further confirmed by the PCR method (wheat, buckwheat, and peanuts) or the western blotting (milk and eggs) as a qualitative test, in addition to the investigation of its manufacturing records [the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website: "Inspection Method of Foods Containing Allergens" (SHOKU-HATSU NO. 1106001 (Notification No. 001 (Nov. 6, 2002) of Department of Food Safety, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)) (http://www.hourei.mhlw.go.jp/~hourei/cgi-bin/t_docframe.cgi?MODE=tsuchi&DMODE=CONTENTS&SMODE=NORMAL&KEYWORD=&EFSNO=4642) (www.hourei.mhlw.go.jp/~hourei/cgi-bin/t_docframe.cgi?MODE=tsuchi&DMODE=CONTENTS&SMODE=NORMAL&KEYWORD=&EFSNO=4642)].

Please amend the paragraph on page 19, line 7 as follows:

An especially preferred real-time PCR method is a method characterized by quantifying DNA based on the amount of emitted light by use of the specific plant genus-specific primer set designed as described above as well as a probe with a fluorescent dye at the 5' end and a quencher at the 3' end that hybridizes under stringent conditions to an internal region of a site hybridized with each oligonucleotide of a PCR primer set for an amplification target sequence, wherein light emitted from the fluorescent dye at the 5' end of the probe is suppressed by the quencher at the 3' end, while during Taq polymerase-catalyzed DNA extension from the primer in PCR reaction, the probe is degraded by the 5'→3' exonuclease activity of the Taq polymerase to dissociate the fluorescent dye and the quencher, which then emits light. It is not required that the entire probe sequence is encompassed in the internal region of the site hybridized with the PCR primers. There may be a 1 to 10-base or 1 to 5-base overlap between the 3'-terminal bases of the designed probe and the 3'-terminal bases of the primer designed on the antisense strand of the strand to which the probe hybridizes. It is more preferable to select the probe sequence from a region having a sequence universal to a specific plant genus to be detected. A TaqMan™ probe is preferred as the above-described probe. A method of designing the TaqMan probe is known in the art (see e.g., Applied Biosystems, Japan, "Simple Operational Guideline for Primer Express Software, Simple Operational Guideline for TaqMan Probe Search in Primer Express Software: Rev. C" (<http://www.appliedbiosystems.co.jp/website/jp/product/etlgpage.jsp?MODELCD=19775&PLCD=17689&BUCD=131>)) (www.appliedbiosystems.co.jp/website/jp/product/ctlgpage.jsp?MODELCD=19775&PLCD=17689&BUCD=131)). A probe that can be used in quantitative PCR for a given plant or a plant belonging to a given plant genus is referred herein to as a "probe for detecting" the given plant or the plant belonging to the given plant genus. That is, in the present specification, the "probe for detecting" refers to a probe that can detect a plant belonging to each plant genus by using the probe in combination with a primer set for detecting the plant genus. In this context, detection encompasses both qualitative and quantitative detection, as described above. It should be appreciated that such a probe is also advantageous in the quantitative detection.

Please amend the paragraph on page 20, line 25 as follows:

Such a probe may be constructed using a commercially-available kit after oligonucleotide having the designed sequence is synthesized. Alternatively, the construction of the probe may be outsourced and custom-ordered, and many contract manufactures for probes are known in the art (e.g., Applied Biosystems, Japan (<http://www.appliedbiosystems.co.jp>)) (www.appliedbiosystems.co.jp)).

Please amend the paragraph on page 23, line 6 as follows:

By way of example, the use of a statice seed as the standard plant sample is illustrated in the Examples herein. As described above, upland weeds are highly likely to contaminate food crops and are therefore unsuitable as the standard plant sample. Consequently, the present inventors investigated the designations of families for all of the 860 types of plants described as upland weeds in The Weed Science Society of Japan website (<http://wssj.ae.affrc.go.jp>) (wssj.ac.affrc.go.jp), and selected statice as a plant belonging to a family not included in the families. Primers specifically detecting the ITS-1 sequence of statice were used to examine general food ingredients, that is, five types of commercially-available wheat, five types of commercially-available corn grits, and three types of commercially-available mustard, for the presence or absence of contamination with the statice. However, the contamination was not detected at all in any of these food ingredients. Therefore, the statice was expected to be preferable as the standard plant sample of the present invention.